ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A mechanism for providing a user with selective access
to resources on an intranet. In a communications network
5   accessible using HTTP, a reverse proxy server is coupled to
an intranet and also coupled to a browser enabled client.
Requests for access to resources inside the intranet are made
through the reverse proxy server. Access to the requested
resource is provided to the client by means of a capability-
10   enabled uniform resource locator (URI) having a character
string that is produce by encoding an identification number
and a random number. The character string, identification
number and random number are associated with a database
record accessed by the reverse proxy server to determine
15   whether access is to be provided to the client, and what
conditions to apply to the access when the capability-enabled
URI is invoked. Multiple resources may be grouped together in
a secure container to which access is provided. The
capability-enabled URI may be used to provide access to
20   common gateway interface (CGI) scripts.